

Appl. No. 10/058,523

Reply to Office action of Apr. 11, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for measuring gaps and hollow spaces in motor vehicle body construction, the method which comprises:

as introducing a filler element into one of a gap and a hollow space having a given dimension; and

measuring the given dimension of the one of the gap and the hollow space by using an ultrasonic testing unit coupled to the filler element.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises:

using, as the filler element, a sealing strip; and

inserting a probe of the ultrasonic testing unit into the sealing strip.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises performing the measuring step by using a measurement

Appl. No. 10/058,523

Reply to Office action of Apr. 11, 2003

process as is used for a medical, intravascular ultrasonic measurement.

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Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 3, which comprises evaluating a measurement, resulting from the measuring step, with a given resolution by using a signal processing step.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises determining dimensions of the one of the gap and the hollow space.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A device for measuring gaps and hollow spaces in motor vehicle body construction, comprising:

an ultrasonic testing unit having an ultrasonic probe; [and]

a filler element configured to be introduced in one of a gap and a hollow space having a given dimension to be measured, said filler element enclosing said ultrasonic probe; and

said ultrasonic testing unit being configured to measure the given dimension of the one of the gap and the hollow space.

Claim 7 (original): The device according to claim 6, wherein said ultrasonic probe has a rod-shaped tip.

Appl. No. 10/058,523

Reply to Office action of Apr. 11, 2003

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Claim 8 (original): The device according to claim 6, wherein said filler element is an elastomeric filler element.

Claim 9 (original): The device according to claim 6, wherein said filler element is a plastomeric filler element.

Claim 10 (original): The device according to claim 6, wherein said filler element has a dimensionally unstable body.

Claim 11 (original): The device according to claim 10, wherein said dimensionally unstable body is a balloon element filled with a material selected from the group consisting of a liquid material and a paste material.

Claim 12 (original): The device according to claim 6, wherein said filler element is an expansion element.

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